

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE **EXCLUSIVE** **EYES ONLY**

TOP SECRET 101622Z NOV 71 SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY
EYES ONLY VIA CAS CHANNELS
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER
TO: AMBASSADOR BUNKER, SAIGON
CITE: WHS1132

NOVEMBER 10, 1971

THE PRESIDENT HAS NOW DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH THE NEXT TROOP WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT AT NOON, WASHINGTON TIME, ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12. THE ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO CONFIRMATION OF HIS DECISION TO STEP UP THE RATE OF WITHDRAWAL TO 20,000 P/R MONTH FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY AND NOT GO BEYOND THAT. THERE WILL BE NO REPEAT NO DISCUSSION OF TERMINATION OF COMBAT ACTIVITY, TERMINATION OF DRAFT, OR OTHER DETAILS WHICH WOULD TEND TO TRANSLATE THEMSELVES INTO ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS FOR THE FUTURE. HE WILL PROBABLY CONFIRM THAT HE WILL HAVE ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT SOMETIME IN JANUARY. ALL THIS, OF COURSE, CONFORMS TO THE GAMEPLAN WHICH HAIG DESCRIBED TO YOU IN DETAIL AND TO PRESIDENT THIEU IN GENERAL TERMS.

I WILL INFORM YOU SHORTLY ON THE DETAILS OF THIS GAMEPLAN AS IT UNFOLDS. IN THE MEANTIME, PLEASE INFORM THIEU OF THE TIMING AND SCOPE OF FRIDAY'S TROOP WITHDRAWAL ANNOUNCEMENT, CAUTIONING HIM AS USUAL OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THIS INFORMATION AND ABSOLUTE NEED TO MAINTAIN SECRECY UNTIL THE TIME OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

WARM PERSONAL REGARDS.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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